

## Steward's Corner

Lesley Sullivan – FEI Level 2 Steward

Well we are on the downhill run now for 2017 events. It will soon be time for a break to recharge the batteries for 2018 so it will be short and sweet this month.

It is fantastic that we have 14 accredited stewards in QLD with more currently doing their pre reqs to become a steward.

It is also great that event organisers are seeing the benefit of having qualified stewards in attendance at their events

However, with the requirement to have accredited stewards officiating at events more are needed. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a steward then they should contact Cathie Drury-Klein, Dressage Steward General - [cathiedk@bigpond.com](mailto:cathiedk@bigpond.com)

Several of you will be travelling to Victoria in October to attend the Stewards Course either to upgrade to FEI Level 1 or to maintain your FEI Stewards accreditation. Look forward to seeing you there.

As usual there will be more Dressage rule changes effective from 1/1/18. As soon as I am aware of what these changes are I will forward details to you.

If there is anything that you would like covered in Stewards Corner please e-mail me – [lsullivan11@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lsullivan11@optusnet.com.au)

I have seen several photos on Face Book recently of horses where it is obvious that the noseband is too tight. So here is a recap:

*Welfare of the horse is paramount. Nosebands that are too tightly fitted regardless of type are never acceptable. Nosebands must never be used in such a way that they interfere with a horse's breathing. Riders failing to loosen a noseband on request from a steward or judge will be **eliminated**.*

- *Noseband checking is done by a steward. It must be possible to place at least **one** finger between the horse's cheek and the noseband. See illustration below*
- *Nosebands can be checked prior to or after the completion of a test*
- *Not all nosebands are required to be checked, if a visual assessment confirms that the noseband is **not** too tight*
- *During a test if the Judge believes a noseband is too tight, they must at the end of the test instruct the rider to return to the gear check. The Steward must report back to the judge after checking the noseband*
- *When checking bridle/noseband the steward must wear two clean disposable gloves*
- *The checking of the bridle/noseband must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive. Stewards have to keep in mind that the safety and welfare of the horse and the Athlete are our highest priority and concern!*
- *The execution of adjustment of equipment must be done by the rider or the groom and **not** the steward*



### **The following are examples of nosebands that are fitted too tightly and/or incorrectly:**

We all have a part to play in ensuring that horses are not physically or mentally harmed in our desire to ride or compete them. Without exception, this applies to all riders, owners, coaches, judges, stewards, officials, etal.

